

CHANNELS

Approved For Release 2000/08/31 : CIA-RDP78S01932A000100100006-1

CLASSIFICATION

~~SECRET NO FOREIGN DISSEM/CONTROLLED DISSEM~~

MESSAGE HANDLING INDICATOR

DATE-TIME GROUP

CITE

MESSAGE REFERENCE NUMBER

CIA/DCI/WHIZ 741003

CIA/WHSS

SOURCE REF:

ROUTING	1		4		7		10	
	2		5		8		11	
	3		6		9		12	

TO: IMMEDIATE WHITE HOUSE//SITUATION ROOM FOR MR FAZIO,
 STATE RCI//OPERATIONS CENTER MR FRY, NMCC//ATTENTION
 CIA REP, TREASURY DEPT//INFO FOR [REDACTED] 25X1A9a
 WARNING NOTICE SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AND METHODS
 INVOLVED

ITEM NO: 2

DATE: 3 OCTOBER 1974

SUBJECT: ITALIAN PRIME MINISTER RUMOR ON VERGE OF RESIGNATION

REF :

25X1A2g

25X1X4

[REDACTED] PRIME MINISTER RUMOR MAY OFFER HIS RESIGNATION TO
 PRESIDENT LEONE WITHIN THE NEXT 24 HOURS. THERE IS STILL A
 CHANCE, HOWEVER, THAT TALKS WITH POLITICAL LEADERS TODAY WILL
 CONVINCE RUMOR TO STAY ON, AT LEAST UNTIL NEXT WEEK WHEN THE
 VARIOUS PARTIES HAVE SCHEDULED MEETINGS TO ASSESS THE SITUATION.

THERE HAVE BEEN NUMEROUS REPORTS IN RECENT WEEKS POINTING
 TO THE LIKLIHOOD OF A SHOWDOWN AMONG THE CENTER-LEFT COALITION
 PARTIES THIS FALL. ALL THAT WAS REQUIRED WAS A CATALYST TO SET
 THE PROCESS IN MOTION. THIS WAS PROVIDED ON TUESDAY WHEN THE

DATE:

ORIG:

UNIT:

EXT:

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COORDINATING OFFICERS

AUTHENTICATING OFFICER

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SMALLEST PARTY IN RUMOR'S CABINET--THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS--UNLEASHED A BITTER ATTACK ON THEIR SOCIALIST COALITION PARTNERS. THEY ACCUSED THE SOCIALISTS OF UNDERMINING THE COALITION'S EFFECTIVENESS WITH PROPOSALS FOR CLOSER RELATIONS WITH THE COMMUNIST OPPOSITION AND FOR CHANGES IN THE AUSTERITY PROGRAM. THE SOCIALISTS RESPONDED WITH A DECLARATION THAT THE COLLAPSE OF THE GOVERNMENT WAS NOW INEVITABLE.

IF RUMOR DOES TURN IN HIS RESIGNATION, PRESIDENT LEONE CAN REFUSE TO ACCEPT IT AND TELL HIM TO TRY AGAIN FOR A COMPROMISE AMONG THE COALITION PARTIES--AN OPTION LEONE EXERCISED LAST JUNE. WE DOUBT THAT HE WILL DO SO AGAIN OR, IF HE DOES, THAT RUMOR WILL SUCCEED IN KEEPING THE COALITION INTACT. DIFFERENCES AMONG THE PARTIES HAVE WIDENED CONSIDERABLY SINCE THEN, AND THERE IS A FAIRLY SOLID CONSENSUS AMONG POLITICAL LEADERS THAT RUMOR'S MANDATE HAS RUN OUT. LEONE IS UNLIKELY TO TAKE THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS' ADVICE AND CALL NEW ELECTIONS--AN OPTION WHICH FOR THE MOMENT HOLDS MORE RISKS THAN OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE DOMINANT CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS.

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AFTER CONSULTATIONS WITH MAJOR POLITICAL LEADERS, LEONE WILL PROBABLY ASK ONE OF THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC LEADERS TO TRY TO FORM STILL ANOTHER CENTER-LEFT GOVERNMENT. IF LEONE CONCLUDES THAT SUCH AN EFFORT IS DOOMED TO FAILURE, HE MAY ASK THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS TO SET UP A ONE-PARTY CARETAKER GOVERNMENT TO PRESIDE UNTIL THE DUST SETTLES. E-2 IMPDET. d 25X1A9a

(SPECIAL DISTRIBUTION: W EUR DIV AND NIO [REDACTED])

DATE: 3 OCT 74
 ORIG: [REDACTED] WHSS 25X1A9a
 UNIT: CIA OPS CTR
 EXT: 9340

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